

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)

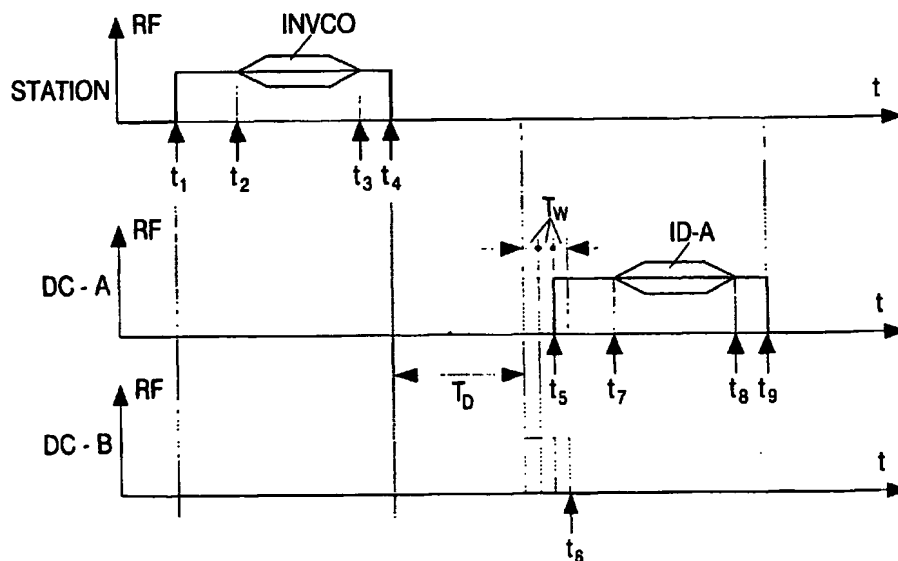
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/025544 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06K 7/00** (74) Agent: RÖGGLA, Harald; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Triester Strasse 64, A-1101 Vienna (AT).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB2003/003956 (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 29 August 2003 (29.08.2003) (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 02102343.7 11 September 2002 (11.09.2002) EP
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): BREITFUSS, Klemens [AT/AT]; Triester Strasse 64, A-1101 Vienna (AT). THUERINGER, Peter [AT/AT]; Triester Strasse 64, A-1101 Vienna (AT).
- Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF READING A PLURALITY OF NON-CONTACT DATA CARRIERS, INCLUDING AN ANTI-COLLISION SCHEME



(57) Abstract: A method of inventorying data carriers (2) by means of a communication station, whereby the communication station and each data carrier (2) are brought into communicative connection, and each data carrier (2) brought into communicative connection with the communication station is capable of generating a response signal (IDS) that renders possible an inventorying of the data carrier and is capable of delivering a generated response signal (IDS) with the use of a transmission start moment that can be selected from a plurality of transmission start moments (t5, t6), each data carrier tests whether another data carrier (2) is already giving its response signal (IDS). Each data carrier (2) subsequently discontinues the generation or delivery of its response signal (IDS) if another data carrier (2) is already providing its response signal (IDS).